

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 777

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TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

1. WHEN IN WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH CLAYTON FRETCHY AND WIFE (POLLY WISNER) ABOUT THEIR VISIT TO SOVIET UNION EARLY FEBRUARY. COULD YOU CHECK WITH THEM BY PHONE TO ASCERTAIN EXACT DATES FOR THEIR VISIT IF THEY HAVE THEM.

2. IF NOT ALREADY IN TRAIN, WE FEEL NECESSARY STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN SOONEST TO ARRANGE FOR ARRIVAL OF LAB TECHNICIAN IN MOSCOW. HOUSING WILL BE A PROBLEM BUT WE WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW; HOTEL ACCOMMODATION MAY BE REQUIRED INITIAALY.

3. RE RABBI SCHNEIER VISIT, THE TWO FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE OMITTED FROM OUR REPORT, BUT I'D LIKE TO PASS THEM ON FYI SINCE THEY PROBABLY ARISE IN SCHNEIER'S SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS WITH YOU AND JACK ARMITAGE. SCHNEIER SAID THAT TITOV TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE STATES (HE HAS BEEN BEFORE) BUT THAT HE NEEDS AN OFFICIAL USG INVITATION. SCHNEIER SAID THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED TO TITOV THAT THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE COULD TAKE CAR NOT ONLY OF ANY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BUT ALSO PROVIDE THE INVITATION, BUT TITOV REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE NEEDED AN OFFICIAL USG INVITATION IN ORDER TO SECURE THE APPROVAL OF HIS SUPERIORS. SCHNEIER TOLD US THAT HE THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL WERE TITOV TO VISIT THE US. HE CLAIMS THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS OF
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GETTING AN OFFICIAL USG INVITATION FOR TITOV, BUT ADDS THAT HE

ATTACHES ENOUGH IMPORTANCE TO GETTING TITOV TO THE USA AND THE POSSIBLE POSITIVE RESULTS THAT MIGHT COME FROM SUCH A VISIT THAT HE WILL RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETURN. (WE OF COURSE GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF USG INVITATION.)

4. SCHNEIER EXPLAINED TO US THAT HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS MADE TO ATTEND A MEETING OF A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE THAT IS SETTING UP A CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO BE HELD HERE IN 1977. THE STARTING POINT FOR THE CONFERENCE IS THE 1973 CONGRESS OF PEACE-LOVING FORCES, AND THE NEW EFFORT IS TIED INTO THE CSCE, AS WELL AS AIMED AT "STRENGTHENING PEACE" GENERALLY. SCHNEIER SAYS THAT HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND BOTH A PREPARATORY MEETING THIS SPRING AND THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. HE SAYS THAT HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION. WHILE HE CLAIMS TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND SUCH A CONFERENCE AND REALIZES THAT IT IS LIKELY TO BE JUST A SOVIET PROPAGANDA EXERCISE, HE SAYS THAT IT MAY STILL BE IN HIS INTEREST TO ATTEND. HE FEELS THAT HE MIGHT, BY HIS PRESENCE, KEEP THE DELIBERATIONS FROM GOING TOO FAR DOWN THE WRONG ROAD. SCHNEIER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER CONGRESSMAN DORN WHO WENT FURTHER, AND SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IN BOTH SCHNEIER'S AND THE USG'S INTERESTS THAT SCHNEIER ATTEND AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD ASSIGN AN OFFICER TO SERVE AS SCHNEIER'S "ADVISER."

5. WE REHEARSED THE PROBLEMS THAT SCHNEIER'S ATTENDANCE MIGHT PRODUCE FOR HIM, AS WELL AS THE HISTORY AND OUTCOME OF SIMILAR SOVIET-SPONSORED CONFERENCES, SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT ENCOUNTER MORE PROBLEMS THAN HE NOW EXPECTED IN SEEKING EITHER TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM UNACCEPTABLE DECISIONS OR EVEN TO MAKE HIS OWN VIEWS HEARD. WE ADDED THAT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, BEFORE HE COMMITTED HIMSELF, TO FIND OUT PRECISELY THE AGENDA AND WHETHER THERE WOULD BE OTHER WESTERN CLERGYMEN PRESENT. SCHNEIER SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH YOU AND ARMITAGE BEFORE COMMITTING HIMSELF. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP TWO OF THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS THAT SCHNEIER WAS GIVEN.

6. RE GRAVES' TRAVEL PLANS, THE MOVERS WILL PACK UP HIS HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS ON FEBRUARY 9-10. AFTER THAT, HE PLANS TO CONSULT, IF POSSIBLE, AT WARSAW, BUDAPEST, AND MUNICH WITH A BRIEF DETOUR
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TO GARMISCH. THE GARMISCH VISIT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED ALREADY BY THE COMMANDANT. THE TRANS-OCEANIC LEG WILL BE LONDON-NEW YORK BY PAN AM. AFTER ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON, GRAVES WILL HAVE TO BUY A CAR AND FIND AN APARTMENT. CHECK-IN TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AROUND OPENING DAY OF THE PARTY CONGRESS, BUT THEN THE APARTMENT AND CAR WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND.
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